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preaching to them the leading and simplest doctrines of Christianity. He did not expect the interposition of a miracle to overcome the stubbornness, and enlighten the darkness, of the savage heart ; but set himself patiently to work in removing the prejudices of the Indians, softening their rudeness, and gradually attempering their characters to the mild spirit of Christian love. The luminous statements of Mr. Francis, in this part of his work, suggest many grave reflections ; and we trust they will receive that attention among the friends of Indian civilization, which their intrinsic interest and philosophic value deserve.

7.— *The Year Book. An Astronomical and Philosophical Annual.* By MARSHALL CONANT. Boston ; Munroe & Francis. 1836.

THIS is the first of a series of volumes, which the author states it to be his intention to publish annually. It is divided into three parts. The First Part contains a popular introduction to the science of astronomy ; the second is devoted to astronomical calculations ; and the third is made up of a collection of selected articles, relating to science and its applications to the arts.

The introduction to astronomy contains a popular statement of the elementary principles of the science, together with an explanation of the principal terms. It is brief, condensed, and clear, and is extremely well adapted to the use of beginners, especially such as are not well versed in mathematical studies. Indeed the author seems to have carried his attempts at great simplicity too far, having given definitions of the *angle*, *inclination of planes*, *ellipse*, and other terms which ought to be supposed to be familiar to every person when commencing the study of astronomy. We mention this particularly, because we think there is a strong tendency among instructors and pupils to hurry forward into the different departments of Natural philosophy, without first acquiring a sufficient knowledge of elementary mathematics ; a tendency which cannot be too severely reprobated, since it necessarily precludes the possibility of acquiring any just or clear ideas, and renders wearisome and disgusting, departments of learning, which are highly interesting when properly presented to the mind. This fault, however, if it be one, does not render the work less valuable to those whose previous acquirements have fitted them for commencing the study of astronomy.

Throughout the whole, the author insists strongly upon the necessity of *actual observation* of the various phenomena of the

heavens; and he has taken considerable pains to give such information as will assist the beginner in his attempts to acquire knowledge, and obtain distinct ideas, by his own observation.

Part Second, devoted to astronomical calculations, contains, in addition to those things usually found in the almanac, a variety of interesting matter.

The Third Part is made up of articles selected from various scientific journals, relating to science and its applications to the arts. They are most of them on subjects of interest; and it will be found convenient to those who do not enjoy access to the various periodicals of the day, to have thus brought together, in one volume, so large an amount of useful matter, which otherwise they might not be able to obtain.

The work appears to us to be valuable, and we hope the author will be encouraged to proceed with it.

8. — *Il Progresso delle Scienze, Lettere, ed Arti.* (*The Progress of the Sciences, Letters, and Arts.*) Naples. Nos. 18 — 22, inclusive. 1835, 1836.

THIS journal is one of much interest and value. Under the three heads mentioned in its title, the writers in it treat of a great variety of topics, and generally with knowledge and ability. The first part of each number is taken up with essays, reviews, &c., on various branches of moral and natural sciences, and sometimes political economy. Practical and local politics the writers carefully avoid. The journal may lose some piquancy by reason of this caution, but perhaps little or none of its permanent value. There is an excellent review of the Baron D'Haussez's "England," in Numbers eighteen and nineteen. As a critique upon, and an abstract of, the Baron's work, in point of understanding of the author's character, and candor in treating his book, it is very much to be commended. The brief sketch of the works published by preceding travellers, with which the article opens, shows that the writer is at home in his subject. In the nineteenth Number, we find a very well written review of an Italian translation of Professor Heeren's profound work on the Politics and Commerce of the Ancients. The writer (Signor L. Blanch, probably a mistake of the press for Bianch., i. e. Bianchini, the principal editor,) introduces his review with a series of very elegant and discriminating remarks on the literary character of the present age, as compared with the preceding. In doing this, he shows a just appreciation of those who have gone before, and an unprejudiced estimate of the circumstances in